

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UTAH STATE PARKS ROAD TRIP – SIX PEOPLE, 43 PARKS, THREE DAYS

Syracuse – Starting at noon Thursday, May 12 from Antelope Island State Park, a group of six people will pile in an RV and drive approximately 2,200 miles visiting all 43 state parks and returning back to Antelope Island Sunday, May 15.

“The idea of the Road Trip is to showcase the importance, beauty and diversity of Utah’s state park system and rally Utahns to come out and support their favorite state parks, and state parks in their communities,” said Barbara Riddle.

Barbara Riddle, Chris Dallin, Tim Hughes, Russ Smith, Bill Francis and Vaughn Jacobsen will share close quarters in an RV as they visit the parks. The trip is funded privately and through in-kind donations: RV provided by All Access Recreation Club, cash from Chevron, promotion by KSL Radio, satellite communication by Skycall Communications and videography by The Imagination Company. During and after the trip, the Road Trippers will blog, and share video and photos through updates on their website at utahstateroadtrip.com.

“We challenge every Utahn to visit a state park this year, if we can do all 43 parks in three days, you can visit one,” said Russ Smith with Skycall Communications.

The Road Trip coincides with the Utah Tourism Conference and National Tourism Week, and is an official Travel Day Event designated by U.S. Travel. Road Trippers will stop briefly at the Utah Tourism Conference in Park City on Thursday night to meet up with the Utah Tourism Industry Coalition, Utah Office of Tourism, and other tourism entities.

Tourism is one of Utah’s largest industries, generating \$6.2 billion in traveler spending every year and \$625 million in state and local taxes. Utah’s state parks alone host nearly 5 million visitors annually.

Many state parks, including Antelope Island and Territorial Statehouse are planning community events around the Road Trip. All visitors to state parks that day will receive a Utah State Parks supporter pin; no taxpayer money was used to purchase pins.

Established by the 1957 Utah Legislature, the state park system has been a recent target of budget cuts, stripped of \$8.3 million in general funds over the last four years. With no new funding in sight for operations or replacement of aging facilities, the Road Trippers want to raise awareness about potential state park closures.

For more information, please call:

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